



A REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FIRST STATE LEGISLATURE  
ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 71, S.D. 1 (2001)

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE WORK OF ISLAND TENANTS ON THE  
RISE FOR THEIR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO BRING LOW-INCOME PEOPLE INTO  
ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

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## H.C.R. 71, S.D. 1 RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE WORK OF ISLAND TENANTS ON THE RISE FOR THEIR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO BRING LOW-INCOME PEOPLE INTO ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

### Purpose

H.C.R. 71, S.D. 1 recognized Island Tenants on the Rise (ITOR) for its efforts in encouraging the participation of public housing residents in the democratic process and encourage the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii (HCDCH) to continue working with ITOR in effecting policy changes that will lead to self-sufficiency and self-determination by residents in public housing. H.C.R. 71, S.D. 1 requires the HCDCH to report on the cooperative accomplishments of HCDCH and ITOR in working together to build new and more active resident associations in every public housing project and in effecting policy changes that will lead to the self-sufficiency and self-determination of public housing residents.

### Background

In 1999, the HCDCH adopted a policy to foster resident responsibility and self-sufficiency rather than dependency. Thus, one of HCDCH's strategic planning goals is to assist persons in housing programs and facilities administered by the Corporation to achieve higher levels of economic independence. The HCDCH has implemented a number of strategies to achieve this goal including establishing resident councils in both federal and state public housing projects. As of December 2001, the HCDCH formally recognized twelve resident councils:

Kalihi Valley Homes, Kalihi, Oahu  
Kaahumanu Homes, Kalihi, Oahu  
Mayor Wright Homes, Honolulu, Oahu  
Kamehameha Homes, Kalihi, Oahu  
Hauiki Homes, Honolulu, Oahu  
Kuhio Homes, Kalihi, Oahu  
Kuhio Park Terrace, Kalihi, Oahu  
Hale Po'ai, Honolulu, Oahu  
Nanakuli Homes, Nanakuli, Oahu  
Waimaha-Sunflower, Waianae, Oahu  
Koolau Village, Koolau, Oahu  
Puahala Homes, Kalihi, Oahu

HCDCH staff is also actively working with residents in 18 projects to form resident councils.

In 2001, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded ITOR a \$240,000 grant under the Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) program. ITOR proposed to work with ten public housing communities in the following areas:

- Organize resident councils
- Organize development and leadership training
- Pursue resident management possibilities

- Resource development
- Provide homeownership training

The ten federal public housing communities are listed below:

Kalihi Valley Homes, Honolulu, Oahu\*  
 Nanakuli Homes, Nanakuli, Oahu\*  
 Puuwai Momi, Aiea, Oahu  
 Mayor Wright Homes, Honolulu, Oahu\*  
 Hookipa Kahaluu, Kaneohe, Oahu  
 Maili I, Maili, Oahu  
 Palolo Valley Homes, Honolulu, Oahu  
 Hale Hoonanea, Eleele, Kauai  
 Hanamaulu, Kauai<sup>+</sup>  
 Kekaha Ha'aheo, Kekaha, Kauai<sup>+</sup>

### Partnership

During the past year, HCDCH obtained input from ITOR and the interim Resident Advisory Board (which is comprised of many ITOR members) in the establishment of administrative rules that will bolster economic self-sufficiency for public housing residents and recipients of Section 8 tenant-based assistance. The Governor approved Chapters 15-185, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, and 15-190, Federally-Assisted Housing Projects, in November 2001 paving the way for implementation of programs to assist residents to attain self-sufficiency.

The HCDCH and ITOR have had a number of meetings since August 2001 to discuss various issues including H.C.R. 71, welfare reform, the resident advisory board, and partnering to carry out the ROSS grant. HCDCH and ITOR are committed to working collaboratively to establish resident councils at specific federal public housing projects to assure geographical representation on HCDCH's Resident Advisory Board. Both parties are exploring ways in which HCDCH can support ITOR in addressing office space and equipment needs of the ROSS grant. Additionally, HCDCH, ITOR, and the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii will also work together to address community issues at various public housing projects.

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\* Resident council already established and recognized by HCDCH

<sup>+</sup> HCDCH has already been working with residents to establish a resident council